

Hon. Doris O. Matsui

Member of Congress



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May 5, 2010

Highlights of 111th Congress Accomplishments for Hispanic Families

- Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis — siding with the special interests: Wall Street banks, credit card companies, Big Oil, and insurance companies.
- These Bush economic and fiscal policies created the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression — with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month—and nearly doubled our national debt.
- Democrats in Congress will continue to take America in a New Direction for Hispanic families, working to create American jobs and a strong new foundation for economy, protecting Main Street and the middle class.

HARM FROM THE BUSH RECESSION/ OPPORTUNITY IN A NEW ECONOMY

This unprecedented economic crisis has severely impacted Hispanic families.

- With the Bush recession, the Hispanic unemployment rate has effectively doubled – increasing from 6.3 percent in December 2007 to 12.6 percent in March 2010. Unemployment for Hispanic Americans has reached levels not seen in 27 years -- with 2.9 million looking for work.
- Even before the Bush economic crisis peaked, Hispanic families were having a hard time. Over the Bush Presidency,
 - the typical Hispanic family's inflation-adjusted income fell nearly 9 percent to \$37,913
 - the number of Hispanic Americans living in poverty grew by more than 3 million -- to nearly 11 million.

Latino workers will continue to drive the growth of the labor force in the coming decades – as they will account for 60 percent of the population growth between 2005 and 2050 – so how Latinos recover from the Bush recession is of both immediate and long-term importance to our economy. Hispanic-owned businesses in the U.S. are expected to grow more than 40 percent in the next six years to more than 4 million.

NEW LAWS WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY & HISPANIC FAMILIES

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

- Responsible for up to 2.8 million jobs already, including teachers, police and firefighters
- More than one-third was tax cuts for 98% of Americans and small businesses
- Rebuilding America with clean energy and 21st century jobs
- Key aid for workers most hurt by the recession – including extending and improving unemployment benefits, increasing food stamps, and expanding job training.

All House Republicans voted NO

Why would we go back to the failed Bush policies that created the crisis?

WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT

- Boosting the economy with emergency relief for Americans hit by the recession
- An expanded first-time homebuyer tax credit
- Enhanced small business tax relief for U.S. businesses with use of net operating loss provision

93% of House Republicans voted NO

- Hispanics own an estimated 1.6 million small businesses with annual revenues of \$222 billion

HIRING INCENTIVES TO RESTORE EMPLOYMENT (HIRE) ACT

- Will help create 300,000 jobs, with tax cuts for businesses to hire, accelerated write-offs for small businesses
- Unleash tens of billions of dollars to rebuild infrastructure
- Cracking down on offshore accounts for corporations and the wealthy

97% of House Republicans voted NO

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

- Puts American families and small business owners—not the insurance companies—in control of their own health care
- Makes health insurance affordable for middle class and small businesses—one of largest tax cuts for health care in history – reducing premiums and out-of-pocket costs
- Holds insurance companies accountable to keep premiums down and prevent denials of care and coverage, including for pre-existing conditions
- Strengthens Medicare and lowers prescription drug costs
- Creates up to 4 million jobs, largely in small businesses
- Reduces deficit by largest amount in almost two decades, reining in waste, fraud and abuse
- Expands access to preventive care, fights health disparities and strengthens the focus on minority health
 - About 9 million Latinos will be eligible to receive coverage; Latinos have the highest rates of un-insurance in the nation
 - Half of Hispanic Americans do not have a regular doctor
 - Over 20 percent of older Hispanic Americans have diabetes, compared to 14 percent of whites, and they are more likely to be hospitalized. They are far less likely to get flu shots or cancer screenings

All House Republicans voted NO

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR

- In 2009, President Obama nominated and the Senate confirmed Sonia Sotomayor as the first Hispanic Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court in a 68-31 vote, with all Democrats supporting

Three-quarters of Senate Republicans voted NO

STUDENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

- Increases the maximum Pell Grant from \$5,350 in 2009 to \$5,550 in 2010 and to nearly \$6,000 by 2017. About 37 percent of Hispanic students receive the Pell Grant scholarships each year. Over 150,000 more Hispanic students would get Pell Grants to attend college by 2020 due to the new law, according to Education Department estimates
- Makes student loan repayments more affordable, helping an estimated 143,000 Hispanic students through 2020, by lowering the repayment cap on student loans from 15% to 10% of discretionary income in 2014
- Strengthens our nation's Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) so that students can stay in school, graduate and succeed in our global economy -- investing \$1 billion in Hispanic Serving Institutions over 10 years
- Ends wasteful subsidies to banks through the federal guaranteed student loan programs

All House Republicans voted NO

COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

- Building on our historic investments, strengthening quality health care for more than 5 million veterans by investing 11% more for medical care, benefit claims processors, and facility improvements this year
- Ensuring reliable & timely funding for our veterans by providing advance appropriations for the first time
- Enacting “landmark legislation” to provide support to family members and others who care for wounded veterans and to enhance health services for the 1.8 million women veterans
- Implementing the New GI Bill, which provides our veterans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan with a full four-year college education and allows that benefit to be transferred to a family member, and improving it this year so that if a service member or woman dies in combat, this opportunity is provided to all of their children
 - About 1.1 million veterans are Hispanic

FAIR AND ACCURATE 2010 CENSUS

- Designated March as Census Awareness Month, as part of the effort to promote the 2010 census, critical to ensuring that all communities receive their fair share of federal funding
 - In the 2000 census, about 1 million people of color, including 250,000 Latinos, were not counted and many of the neediest communities in our country missed out on vital federal funding
- Enacted a law to stop deceptive look-alike Census mailings to prevent confusion that could lead people to throw out or ignore the real Census questionnaire. But the Republican National Committee continues to send mailings that “plainly violate the spirit and intent of the law,” according to Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif), so the House has passed additional legislation to stop that

HEALTH CARE FOR 11 MILLION CHILDREN

- Provides cost-effective health coverage for 4 million more children and preserve coverage for 7 million children already enrolled
 - Estimated to cover 1.5 million Hispanic children who previously did not have health insurance
- 77% of House Republicans voted NO*

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

- Restores the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay—to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America.
 - For women of color, the numbers are even worse — African-American women earn 61 cents and Latinas earn 52 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.
- 98% of House Republicans voted NO*

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS

- Provides tough new protections for consumers—banning unfair rate increases, abusive fees, and penalties—and strengthens enforcement
 - About 13% of Latinos with credit cards pay interest rates over 20%, compared to 7% of White users.
 - The credit card industry’s unfair practices have kept many Latino families in cycles of debt.
- 36% of House Republicans voted NO*

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT

- Builds on the President’s initiative to stem the foreclosure crisis, with significant incentives to lenders, servicers, and homeowners to modify loans
 - Of the 2.2 million homes that were projected to be foreclosed upon by the end of 2009, nearly 400,000 were estimated to be Hispanic-owned

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON JOBS & OTHER PRIORITIES OF HISPANIC FAMILIES

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT -- PASSED BY HOUSE

- A lack of accountability for Wall Street and big banks cost 8 million jobs

- Provides common sense new rules to protect retirement savings and other household wealth and spur lending to help create American jobs
- Puts an end to taxpayer-funded bailouts and the idea of “too big to fail”
- Protects and empowers consumers to make the best decisions on homes, credit cards, and their own financial future

All House Republicans voted NO

- Nearly 40 percent of Latino and non-white households have retirement accounts with a median amount of approximately \$25,000
- More than 46% of home loans sold to Hispanic borrowers were high-cost subprime loans in 2005 and 2006
- About half of Hispanics are without financial services
- Hispanics are more likely to use alternative financial services such as check-cashing outlets and payday loans, making them vulnerable to high fees and predatory lending. The new consumer financial protection agency will be able to oversee such institutions.

AMERICAN WORKERS, STATE, AND BUSINESS RELIEF ACT—PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE

- Tax cuts to spur business innovation and for families with kids headed to college
- Economy-boosting relief for families whose breadwinner has lost their job (UI, COBRA)
- Protecting health care coverage for millions through Medicaid (FMAP), thereby reducing state budget cuts to help prevent layoffs, including teachers

93% of House Republicans voted NO

ADDITIONAL JOBS LEGISLATION (Jobs for Main Street, Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act, and Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act) – **PASSED BY HOUSE**

- Tax cuts targeted to grow our small businesses
- 300,000 summer youth jobs – critical with nearly 1 in three Latino teens looking for work
- Jobs rebuilding American infrastructure
- Aid to keep teachers in the classroom

97% of House Republicans voted NO

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT -- PASSED BY HOUSE

- Historic legislation that will create 1.7 million jobs (with the Recovery Act)
- Reduces our dangerous dependence on foreign oil that is funding terrorism
- Cuts the carbon pollution causing climate change
- Keeps costs low for Americans, with lower income Americans seeing no cost

95% of House Republicans voted NO.

IMMIGRATION REFORM -- SENATE DEMOCRATS HAVE PRESENTED FRAMEWORK

- Republicans have blocked efforts to reform the U.S. immigration system, with some supporting the new Arizona law
- Democrats in Congress are committed to comprehensive immigration reform to secure our borders, keep our nation safe, uphold the rule of law, protect our workers and our economy, unite families, and provide a pathway to legalization